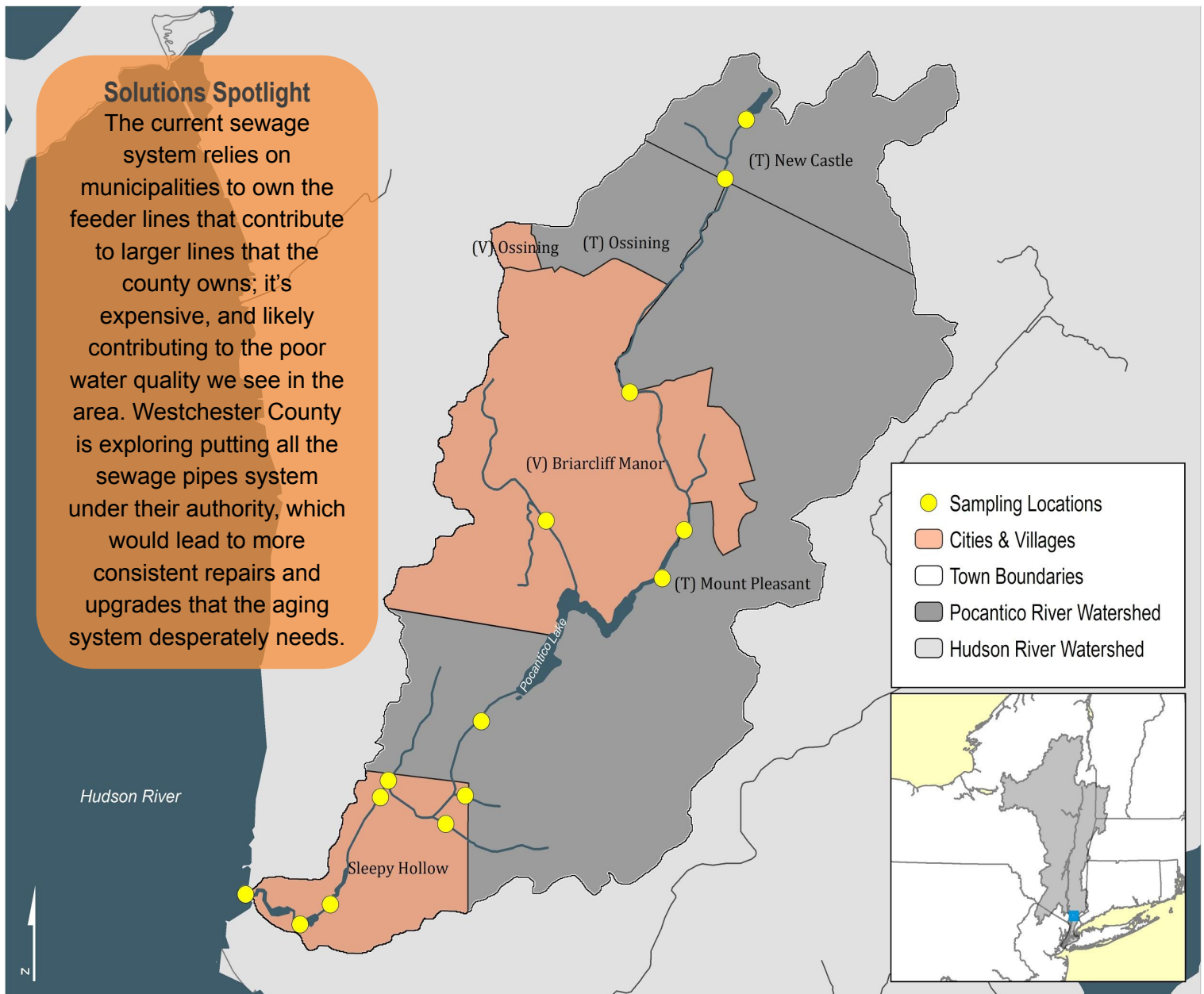


POCANTICO RIVER

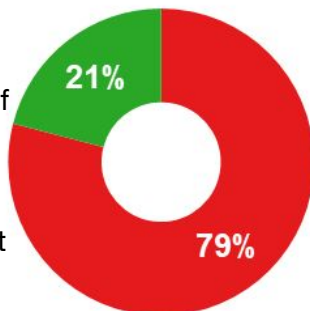
Entero Water Quality Monitoring Results

2012-2022



What portion of samples were safe for swimming?

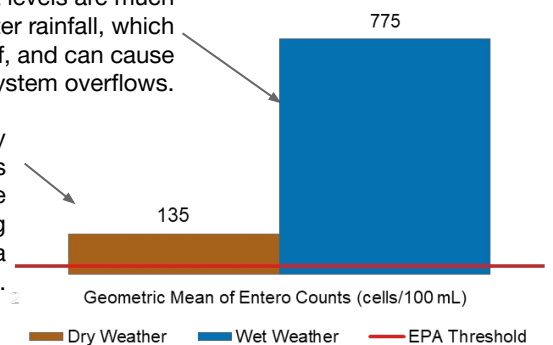
No one swims in average (geometric mean) water, to help understand risk this graph shows the percent of samples that met the single sample EPA guidelines for safe swimming, and the percent of samples that didn't.



How does weather affect bacteria levels?

Bacteria levels are much greater after rainfall, which causes runoff, and can cause wastewater system overflows.

Even in dry weather, levels exceed the safe swimming threshold by a large margin.



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and other info at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/pocantico-river.

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 372 samples collected since 2012 by watershed residents and Riverkeeper. (No sampling was conducted in 2020.) Samples are collected monthly from May to October and processed by the Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak. To get involved, contact Sebastian Pillitteri at spillitteri@riverkeeper.org.

Why We Measure Bacteria

Fecal indicator bacteria such as *Enterococcus* ("Entero") usually do not make us sick. But because they live in the guts of warm-blooded animals, when these bacteria are present in water, pathogens that can make us sick may also be present.

Sources of fecal bacteria may include sewer overflows and failures, inade-

quate sewage treatment, urban or farm runoff, septic system failures, wildlife and contaminated sediment.

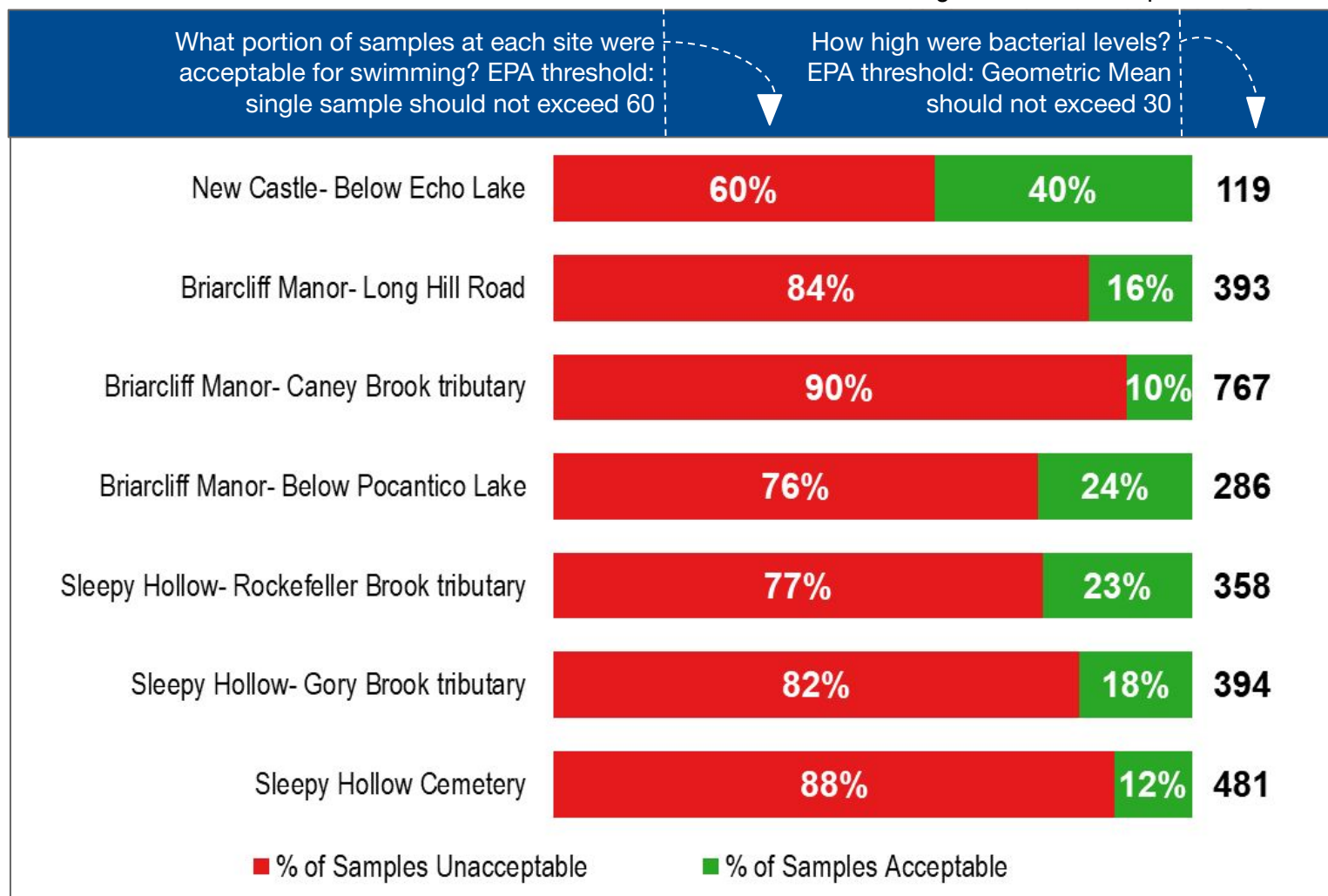
While research continues, the EPA has set thresholds to define if water is safe for swimming based on decades of science relying on measurements of these bacteria. Data are shown in Entero cells per 100 mL.

About the Pocantico River

Flowing from Echo Lake in the town of New Castle, the Pocantico's course is bisected by Pocantico Lake, before joining the Hudson in Sleepy Hollow. Though subject to development pressure, about 63% of the watershed is forested, and less than 10% is covered with impervious surfaces.

Signs of Progress

Due to the advocacy of residents, Yonkers investigated city-owned pipes leading to county-owned Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), resulting in one connection being cleaned, and the county committing to update its Standard Operating Procedures for CSO inspections and clean-outs. This outcome impacts the largest wastewater input to the



Sampling began in 2012 and expanded to these sites in *2014 and **2015.